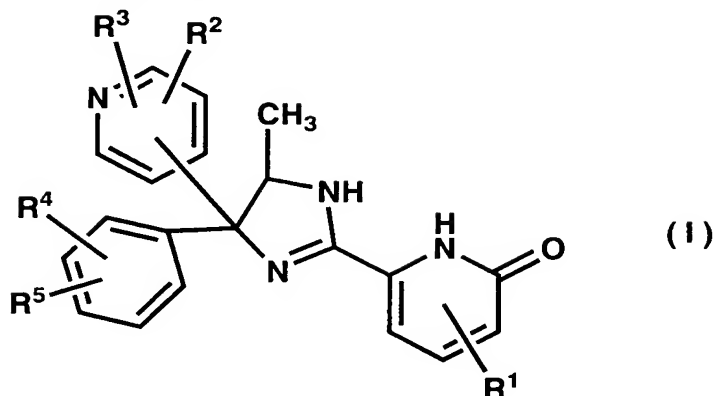
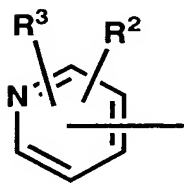


## CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula (I):

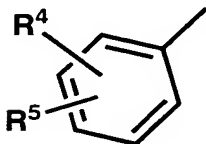


5 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy; R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are each independently hydrogen, halogen or halo-lower alkyl; and R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are each independently hydrogen or halogen, provided that when R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, a group of the formula:



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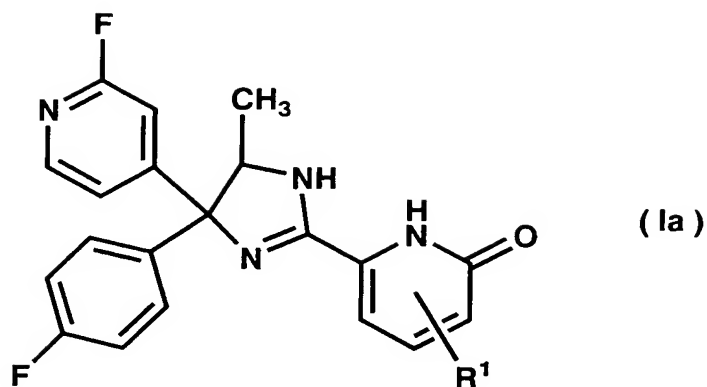
and a group of the formula:



do not represent simultaneously 6-fluoro-3-pyridyl and 4-fluorophenyl, respectively, or a salt thereof.

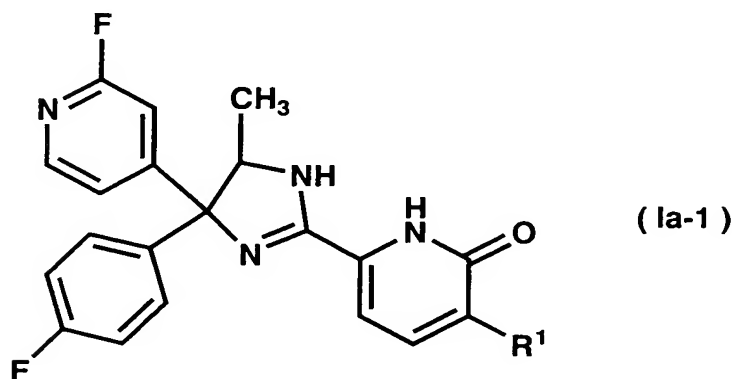
15

2. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the compound is a compound of the formula (Ia):



in which R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy.

3. The compound as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the compound is a compound of the formula (Ia-1):



in which R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy.

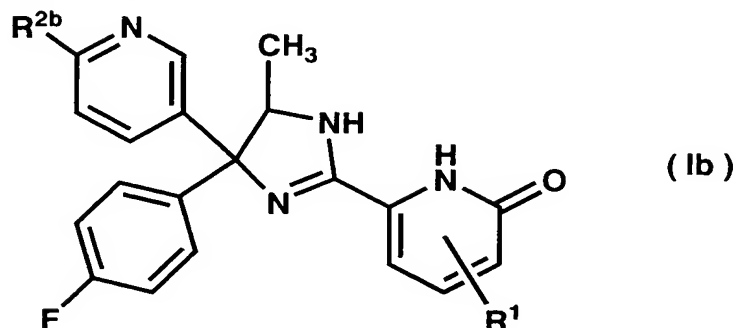
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4. The compound as claimed in Claim 2 or Claim 3, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, halogen or hydroxy.

5. The compound as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the halogen as R<sup>1</sup> is fluorine.

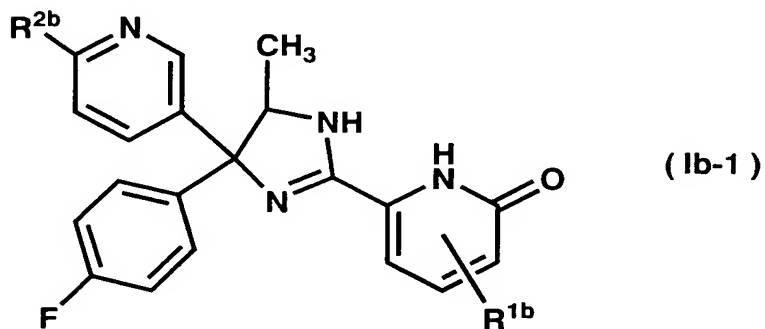
6. The compound as claimed in Claim 4, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen.

7. The compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the compound is a compound of the formula (Ib):



5 in which R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy; and R<sup>2b</sup> is halogen or halo-lower alkyl, provided that when R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen, R<sup>2b</sup> is not fluorine.

10 8. The compound as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the compound is a compound of the formula (Ib-1):

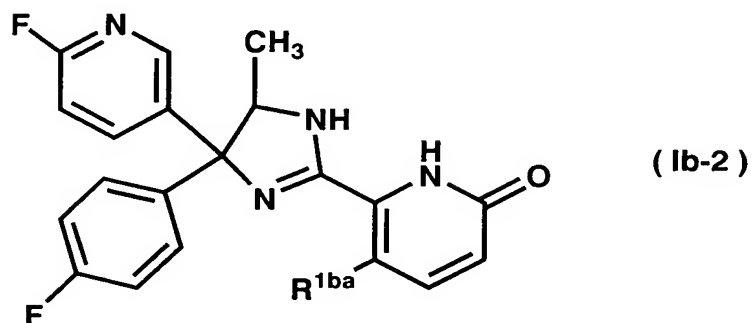


15 in which R<sup>1b</sup> is halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy; and R<sup>2b</sup> is halogen or halo-lower alkyl.

9. The compound as claimed in Claim 8, wherein R<sup>2b</sup> is fluorine or trifluoromethyl.

10. The compound as claimed in Claim 9, wherein  $R^{1b}$  is halogen or lower alkyl.

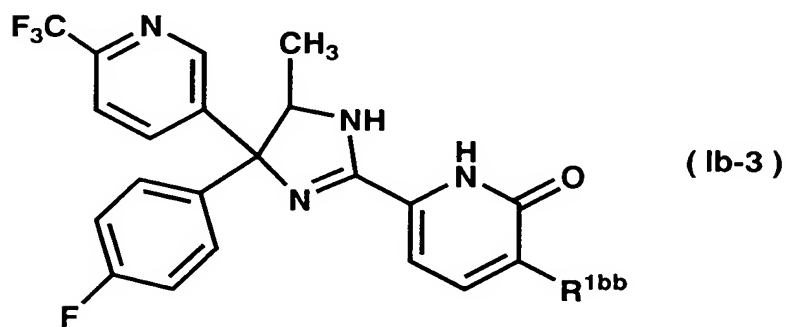
11. The compound as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the compound  
5 is a compound of the formula (Ib-2):



in which  $R^{1ba}$  is halogen.

12. The compound as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the halogen  
10 as  $R^{1ba}$  is fluorine.

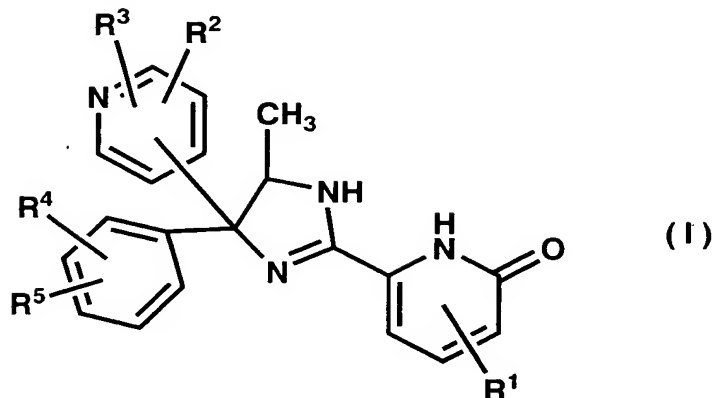
13. The compound as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the compound  
is a compound of the formula (Ib-3):



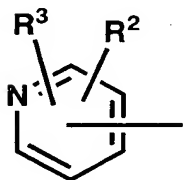
15 in which  $R^{1bb}$  is lower alkyl.

14. The compound as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the lower alkyl  
as  $R^{1bb}$  is methyl.

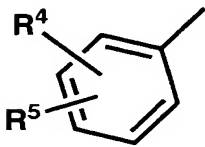
15. A process for preparing a compound of the formula (I):



wherein  $R^1$  is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy;  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each  
 5 independently hydrogen, halogen or halo-lower alkyl; and  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are each independently hydrogen or halogen, provided that when  $R^1$  is hydrogen, a group of the formula:

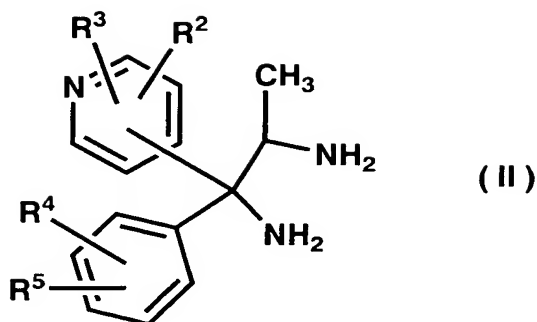


and a group of the formula:

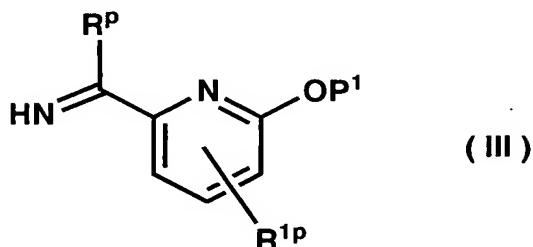


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do not represent simultaneously 6-fluoro-3-pyridyl and 4-fluorophenyl, respectively, or a salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula (II):

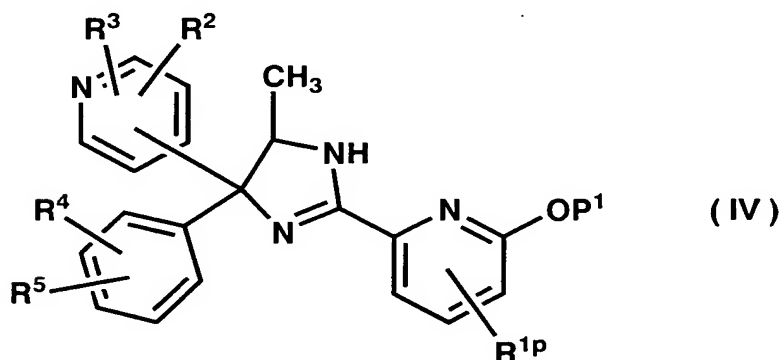


wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  have each the same meaning as defined above, with an acid addition salt of a compound represented by the formula (III):



5

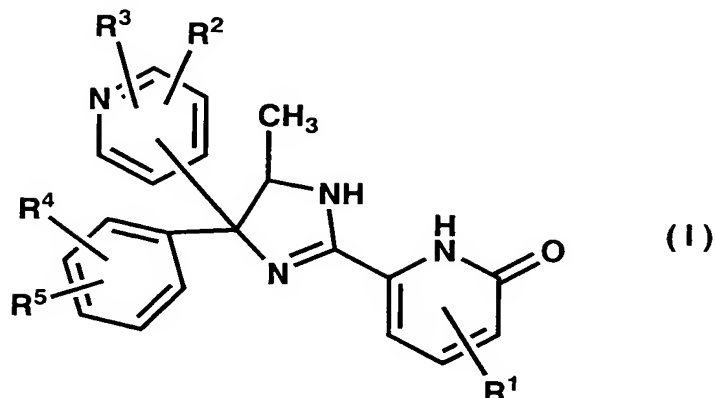
wherein  $P^1$  is hydrogen or a hydroxy-protecting group;  $R^{1P}$  is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, aralkyloxy or optionally protected hydroxy; and  $R^P$  is amino or lower alkoxy, to produce a compound of the formula (IV):



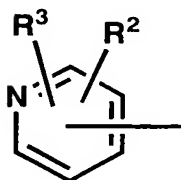
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wherein  $P^1$ ,  $R^{1P}$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  have each the same meaning as defined above, and optionally removing the protecting group(s) from the compound (IV).

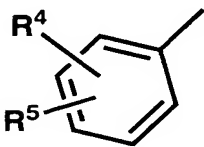
16. A process for preparing a compound of the formula (I):



wherein  $R^1$  is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy;  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each  
 5 independently hydrogen, halogen or halo-lower alkyl; and  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are each independently hydrogen or halogen, provided that when  $R^1$  is hydrogen, a group of the formula:

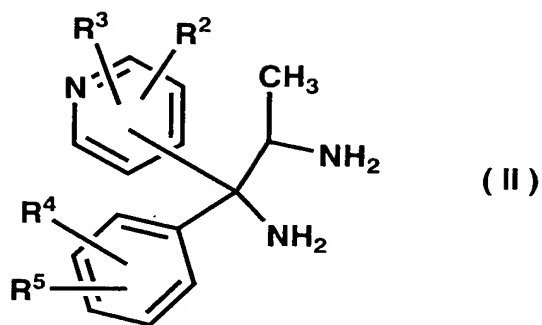


and a group of the formula:

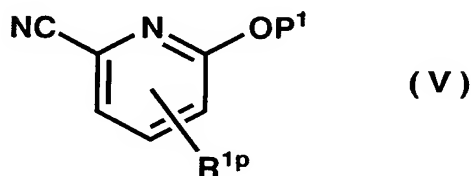


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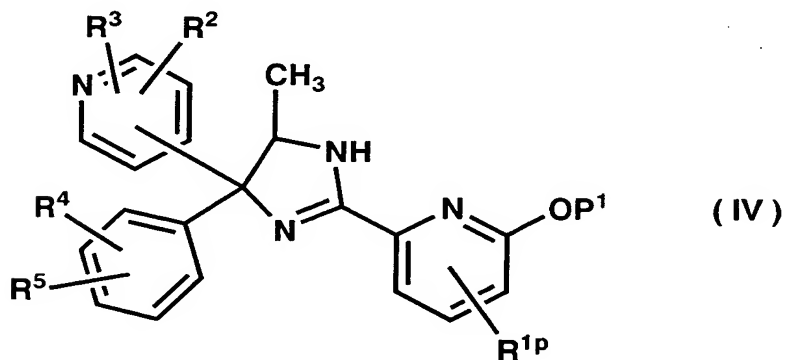
do not represent simultaneously 6-fluoro-3-pyridyl and 4-fluorophenyl, respectively, or a salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula (II):



wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  have each the same meaning as defined above, with a compound of the formula (V):



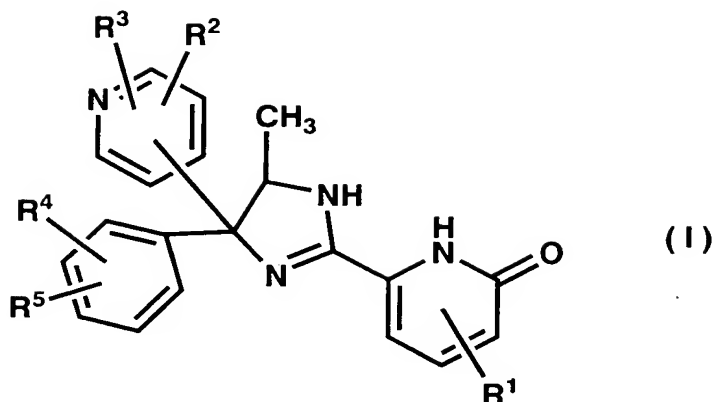
- 5 wherein  $P^1$  is hydrogen or a hydroxy-protecting group; and  $R^{1p}$  is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, aralkyloxy or optionally protected hydroxy, to produce a compound of the formula (IV):



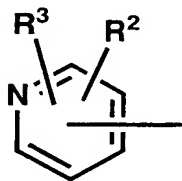
- 10 wherein  $P^1$ ,  $R^{1p}$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  have each the same meaning as defined above, and optionally removing the protecting group(s) from the compound (IV).

17. A process for preparing a compound of the formula (I):

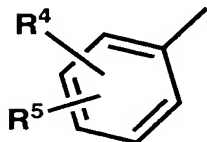




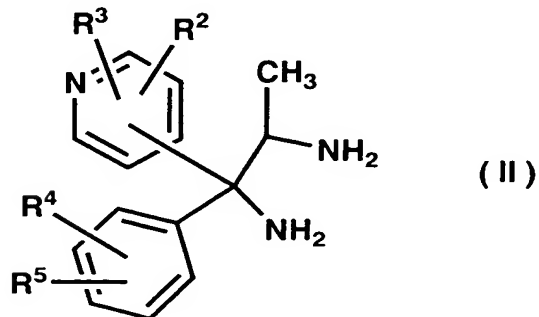
wherein  $R^1$  is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy;  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each independently hydrogen, halogen or halo-lower alkyl; and  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are each independently hydrogen or halogen, provided that when  $R^1$  is hydrogen, a group of the formula:



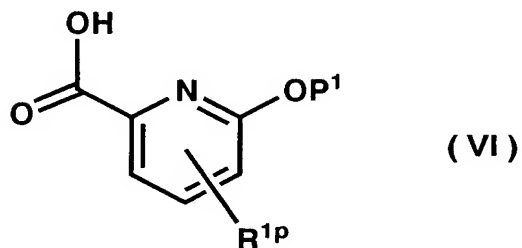
and a group of the formula:



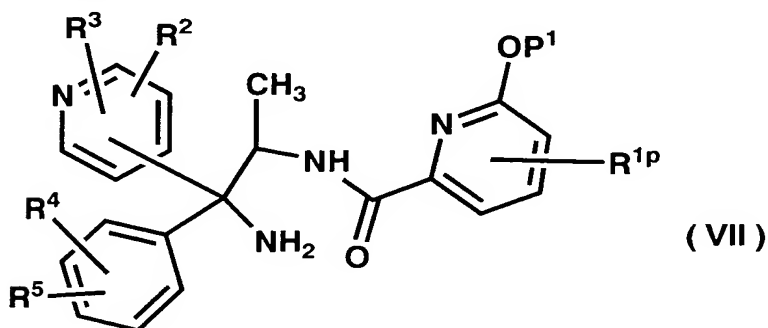
do not represent simultaneously 6-fluoro-3-pyridyl and 4-fluorophenyl, respectively, or a salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula (II):



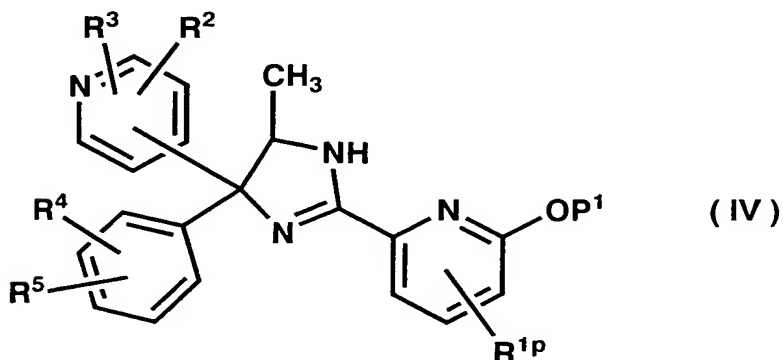
wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  have each the same meaning as defined above, with a compound of the formula (VI):



wherein  $P^1$  is hydrogen or a hydroxy-protecting group; and  $R^{1P}$  is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, aralkyloxy or optionally protected hydroxy, to produce a compound of the formula (VII):



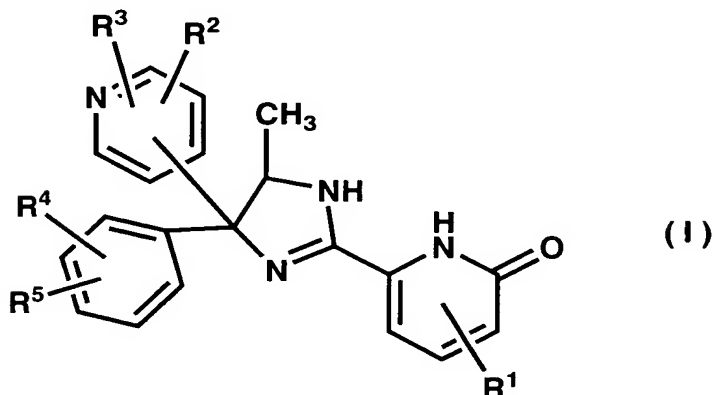
wherein  $P^1$ ,  $R^{1P}$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  have each the same meaning as defined above, subjecting the compound (VII) to intramolecular ring closure condensation to produce a compound of the formula (IV):



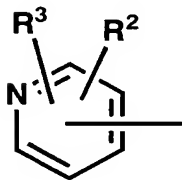
wherein  $P^1$ ,  $R^{1P}$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  have each the same meaning as

defined above, and optionally removing the protecting group(s) from the compound (IV).

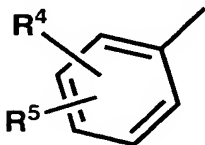
18. A neuropeptide Y receptor antagonist agent comprising a compound of the formula (I):



- wherein  $R^1$  is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy;  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each independently hydrogen, halogen or halo-lower alkyl; and  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are each independently hydrogen or halogen, provided that when  $R^1$  is hydrogen, a group of the formula:

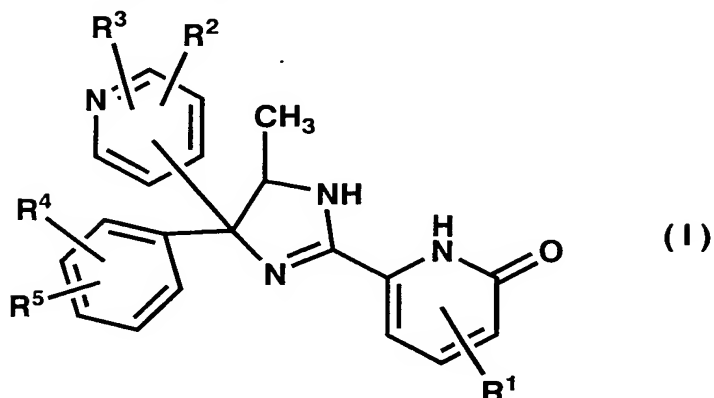


and a group of the formula:

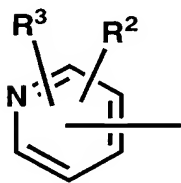


- do not represent simultaneously 6-fluoro-3-pyridyl and 4-fluorophenyl, respectively, or a salt thereof as an active ingredient.

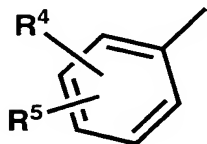
19. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of bulimia, obesity or diabetes, comprising a compound of the formula (I):



wherein  $R^1$  is hydrogen, halogen, cyano, lower alkyl, halo-lower  
 5 alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy or aralkyloxy;  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each  
 independently hydrogen, halogen or halo-lower alkyl; and  $R^4$  and  
 $R^5$  are each independently hydrogen or halogen, provided that  
 when  $R^1$  is hydrogen, a group of the formula:



10 and a group of the formula:



do not represent simultaneously 6-fluoro-3-pyridyl and  
 4-fluorophenyl, respectively, or a salt thereof as an active  
 ingredient.